STATE OF COLORADO

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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Denver, CO 80203
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William T. Randall
Commissioner of Educa
Richard A. Laughlin
Deputy Commissioner

May 7, 1991

Mr. Walter Young
Colorado Department of Health
4210 E. 11th Avenue
Denver, CO 80220-3716

Dear Mr. Young:

The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) very much wishes to be represented on the ASSIST Coalition. Colorado State Board Goals are:

To increase the graduation rate
To improve the attendance rate
To improve educational achievement.

All three require healthy students to succeed. By serving all Colorado School Districts and Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES), CDE has influence on over 500,000 students.

CDE has always held a strong belief in Comprehensive Health Education, planned, and sequential for early childhood through Grade 12. Developing healthy habits from a very young age that are reinforced through the years is sound prevention. The Drug Free Schools and Communities Act (DFSCA) program at CDE promotes more specific tobacco prevention/intervention activities. Tobacco free policies are highly encouraged. Also, we work closely with Connie Acott of the Tobacco Free Schools Project to provide as much technical assistance to schools as possible.

CDE, through the High Risk Intervention Unit, is committed to the prevention of tobacco, alcohol, and other drug use by students; teen pregnancy, HIV Aids, dropping out of school, and other self destructive behaviors including suicide. This same unit is committed to the promotion of cultural competency, social skill building, parent involvement, rich early childhood experiences, and other health promoting behaviors.

I personally feel qualified to served on the ASSIST Coalition because of my long term experience with the Colorado Coalition for Sober Driving and the Colorado School Health Council. And, my experience with the High Risk Intervention Unit has broadened my expertise in all of the high risk areas and how they relate to one another.

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CDE will continue to assist school districts with tobacco prevention/intervention and encourage the use of DFSCA funds for this effort. Presently we are soliciting letters of intent for regional prevention trainings with priority given to those trainings that emphasize tobacco and/or alcohol prevention. Also, we will share mailing lists, labels, and provide signed letters and/or documents from the Commissioner as needed.

CDE fully supports the ASSIST Coalition and offers whatever is necessary to promote the success of this project.

Sincerely,

Mary VanderWall

Mary VanderWall
Director, DFSCA Act
High Risk Intervention Unit
303-866-6766

/s

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